

REMARKS

At the time of the Action, Claims 1-24 were pending. Claims 1-7, 8-15 and 17-23 were rejected under Section 103(a). Claims 8, 16 and 24 were deemed to recite allowable subject matter but were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim.

Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended hereinabove to recite, respectively, the subject matter of Claims 8, 16 and 24 (which have in turn, been canceled). As such, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In addition, the Action states that the drawings are objected to because of the absence of text labels for blocks 4 and 5 of Figure 2. A replacement sheet containing Figure 2 is submitted concurrently herewith.

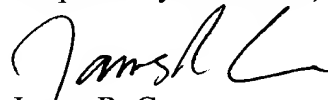
The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because of the reference to Figure 3 in the second paragraph thereof. An amended Abstract of the Disclosure is presented above.

The Action objects to the title as non-descriptive. A new title has been set forth above.

Finally, the Action requests a new Declaration from inventor David Leedham that is executed and dated; such a Declaration is submitted herewith.

Inasmuch as all of the issues raised in the Action have been addressed, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,


James R. Cannon
Registration No. 35,839

USPTO Customer No. 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 22, 2004.

Signature: _____


Joyce Paoli